

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 AF-04 ACDA-05

EB-04 HEW-02 CU-02 TRSE-00 /066 R

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EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

S/S - MR. LUERS

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Z 182331Z OCT 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON FLASH

UNCLAS STATE 230298

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO, US

SUBJECT: JOINT US-PORTUGUESE COMMUNIQUE

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JOINT US-PORTUGUESE COMMUNIQUE

FOLLOWING COSTA GOMES VISIT WITH PRESIDENT FORD.

"AT THE INVITATION OF PRESIDENT FORD, HIS EXCELLENCY FRANCISCO DA COSTA GOMES, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PORTUGAL, VISITED WASHINGTON ON OCTOBER 18. PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER, DR. MARIO SOARES, HAD MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND WITH SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER AND WAS THE GUEST OF HONOR AT A LUNCHEON GIVEN BY SECRETARY KISSINGER.

PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES OUTLINED THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT IN RESTORING CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES TO PORTUGAL AND IN CREATING THE BASIS FOR A RETURN TO DEMOCRACY. HE REPORTED ON THE NEGOTIATIONS
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WHICH HAD LED TO THE INDEPENDENCE OF GUINEA-BISSAU AND

EXPLAINED HIS GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR THE GRANTING OF SELF-DETERMINATION TO THE REMAINING OVERSEAS TERRITORIES. HE REAFFIRMED HIS GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY AND ITS DESIRE TO DEVELOP EVEN CLOSER TIES TO THE UNITED STATES.

PRESIDENT FORD EXPRESSED HIS ADMIRATION FOR THE STATESMANSHIP SHOWN BY PORTUGUESE LEADERS IN UNDERTAKING TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY TO PORTUGAL BY HOLDING FREE ELECTIONS SOON AND IN MAKING POSSIBLE THE ENJOYMENT OF THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION BY THE PEOPLES OF PORTUGAL'S OVERSEAS TERRITORIES. HE NOTED WITH PLEASURE PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES' REAFFIRMATION OF PORTUGAL'S COMMITMENT TO NATO AND EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT TIES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND PORTUGAL WILL BECOME EVER CLOSER.

THE TWO PRESIDENTS AGREED THAT, AS THESE DEVELOPMENTS PROCEED, IT WOULD BE IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST TO INTENSIFY THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES TO EMBRACE NEW ACTIVITIES IN A BROAD RANGE OF AREAS, SUCH AS EDUCATION, HEALTH, ENERGY, AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS, AMONG OTHERS. THEY AGREED THAT THIS EXPANSION OF THEIR COOPERATION COULD BEGIN IN THE FIELDS OF PUBLIC HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND TAX ADMINISTRATION, AS REQUESTED BY THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES.

THEY ALSO AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE COOPERATION IN THE MILITARY FIELD AND THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD CONTINUE AND INTENSIFY NEGOTIATIONS RELATING TO COOPERATION IN THE AZORES, WHERE IT IS AGREED THAT MUTUAL DEFENSE COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS ARE IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND OF NATO." KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNIQUE, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE230298
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JMSMITH:MJK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740297-0956
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741034/aaaabcms.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOINT US-PORTUGUESE COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JOINT US-PORTUGUESE COMMUNIQUE
TAGS: PFOR, PO, US
To: LISBON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005